

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

943
L 34
Cap. 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 461

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
JUN 20 1944
November 6, 1942

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE OPENED -- MEXICO TO GUATEMALA. As heavy-laden freight trains rolled across the newly completed, half-mile bridge spanning the Suchiate River on the Mexico-Guatemala border, the new all-rail route between North and Central America was finally opened. Permitting Mexican standard gauge equipment to cross to the Guatemalan side and to load there directly from the narrow gauge Guatemalan cars, the new bridge eliminates the old necessity of unloading shipments from freight cars, carting them to the banks of the river (which had no wharf), poling them across in tiny boats, and then repeating the laborious process on the other side.

Plans had been made for formal opening of the bridge on November 10, but a cargo congestion drove the builders to a final spurt which finished it ahead of time. (Journal of Commerce)

MEDICAL DISPENSARIES FLOWN TO LATIN AMERICA. In connection with the health and sanitation features of the program for the development of rubber cultivation in Brazil and other American republics, fifteen complete medical dispensaries have already been flown to the South. More are scheduled to follow shortly. (Export Trade and Shipper)

PAN-AMERICAN PLANE SCHEDULES EXTENDED. Extra air schedules have been inaugurated by Pan American Airway on its Latin American services in order to speed up military and diplomatic missions hampered by the lack of shipping. Operated by P.A.A.'s affiliate, Compañía Mexicana de Aviación, one of the new services joins the Mexican and Cuban capitals in a one-day service. Also a new schedule daily out of Brownsville leaves in the afternoon, overnights in Mexico City, and arrives at the Canal Zone the next day. (Christian Science Monitor)

RUBBER FROM THE AMERICAS. Fifteen republics and British colonies in "the other Americas" have agreed to sell exclusively to the United States all crude rubber produced above essential domestic needs and to take steps to expand production. Countries which have signed the agreement include American Republics Brazil, Peru, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, and Panama, and the British colonies Trinidad-Tobago, British Guiana, and British Honduras. Similar agreements are being negotiated with Venezuela, Netherlands Guiana, and the Windward Islands. The rubber agreements run through 1946. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

TOTAQUINE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR QUININE. Made from the other active medicinal substances left in cinchona bark after the extraction of quinine crystals, totaquine will be used for the same purposes as quinine. Intended for use by the public, it will free additional supplies of quinine for military use. Although the ingredients of totaquine have been known for many years, they have not been widely used; yet totaquine is much less expensive than quinine, and it is believed to be probably just as effective. (N.Y. Times)

(Over)

CUBAN BOAT BUILDING PERILED. The construction of the proposed fleet of wooden boats to solve the transportation problem seems doubtful. More than 60 percent of the material required would have to be imported; it is on the controlled list of the United States and is needed for the war program. (N.Y. Times)

HAITI WORKS ON RUBBER. The Government has started to develop a 100,000-acre plantation to grow cryptostegia. Under a contract signed between Washington government agencies and Shada, the Haitian-American Development Corporation, 100,000 men will eventually be employed on the project. Funds for production and expenses are reportedly to be allocated by the Export-Import Bank. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICAN LABOR PROPOSES PRICE FIXING. The Mexican Confederation of Labor is stated to have proposed official control of the prices of foodstuffs to prevent an increase in the cost of living, and to have suggested a law to prevent speculation and to provide for government purchase of all crops of staple commodities, establishment of a nationwide organization for more efficient distribution of basic commodities, and creation of State-owned cooperatives dealing in basic foodstuffs and agricultural machinery and tools. (N.Y. Times)

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AT MAYAGÜEZ CLOSES. Due to a student strike, the Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico has closed the College of Agriculture until a sufficient number of students have applied for admission to justify the holding of classes. Faculty members expect that the agricultural college will be taken over by the army or navy if it remains closed. (N.Y. Times)

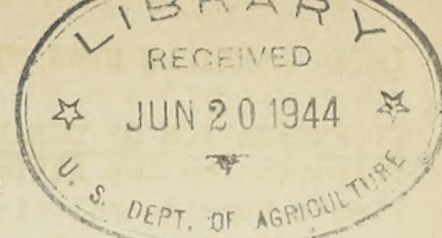
"BANANA BREAD" IN VENEZUELA. To obviate the necessity of importing wheat for bread, the citizens of Venezuela will eat bread made partly of banana flour, meal from manioc or yuca plant, and corn meal, according to a recent executive decree of the Ministry of Interior. The decree provides that the addition of banana, yuca, or corn meal shall be not less than 10 percent. Experiments show that excellent bread may be produced from the above-mentioned products when mixed with wheat flour.

Brazil has been mixing 10 percent yuca with wheat flour for several years. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

VENEZUELA READY TO SHIP RAW SILK. A Venezuelan corporation, entirely financed by Venezuelans, is now ready to supply the United States with fairly large quantities of raw silk cocoons for the war effort. Upward of a million pounds of silk cocoons annually now are said to be available from Venezuela. Save for meager plantings in widely scattered sites, practically all mulberry tree growth is under control of the Corporación de Sericicultura Nacional, which has active governmental support and encouragement to carry out a long-range program. (Journal of Commerce)

1.473
L 34
Cap. 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 462

November 13, 1942

TRADERS URGED TO DEVELOP LATIN AMERICAN BUSINESS. Declaring that business with the Latin American nations "is exceptionally desirable from a credit standpoint," Mr. Glenn, President of Pan American Trust Company, points out that during 1941, out of sales totaling more than \$750,000,000 to Latin America, credit losses amounted to only two-fifths of 1 percent. "We must continue to maintain our definite policy of purchasing from Latin America all their products," he says, "and we must encourage in every way in our power intra-Latin American trade to take care of their goods we cannot consume." (N.Y. Times)

U.S. TO PURCHASE ROTENONE FROM BRAZIL AND PERU. Officials of the Commodity Credit Corporation hope to import at least 4,500,000 pounds of the insecticide during the next twelve months to combat ticks, weevils, aphids and other truck and livestock pests. Under the program announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Board of Economic Warfare, the Commodity Credit Corporation is the exclusive purchaser of all rotenone-bearing roots having a rotenone content of not less than 3 percent. The program will be practically self-liquidating since the ceiling price for crude rotenone is high enough at present to permit recovery of all costs to be incurred by the CCC. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CHILE AND VENEZUELA RENEW MOST-FAVORED-NATION CLAUSE IN THEIR COMMERCIAL TREATY. There will be a direct exchange of Venezuelan coffee and coal for Chilean wines and nitrates. (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINA'S EXPORTS OF RADIOS, DRUGS AND OTHER FACTORY PRODUCTS show increase. With Germany out of the South American markets, Argentina's shipment of medicines abroad increased from 362,350 pesos in 1939 to 11,515,127 pesos in 1941. (Export Trade and Shipper)

BRAZIL HALTS EXPORT OF FRESHLY KILLED MEATS and sets quotas regulating all meat exports next year, as a result of a meat shortage in the domestic market allegedly caused because supplies have been sent abroad to obtain higher prices. The meat packing industry of Brazil, which began exports in 1914, has reached proportions where nearly 150,000 tons, valued at about \$25,000,000, were shipped yearly. (N.Y. Times)

CHILE BEGINS RICE CULTIVATION as part of the wartime effort to make local areas in the Americas more self-sufficient in food requirements. Reports from Chile indicate that rice cultivated on a considerable scale in the Central Valley is as good as or superior to that formerly imported. Chile expects to have a surplus for sale to neighboring countries. (Foreign Commerce Weekly - November 7)

CUBAN SENATE APPROVES FARM BILL preventing dispossession actions against tenant farmers for the duration. (N.Y. Times)

CONFEDERATION OF CUBAN WORKERS OFFERS TO SEND SKILLED WORKERS TO U.S. as a contribution to the Allied war effort. Señor Arevalo, secretary of the confederation's foreign relations committee, estimates that Cuba has some 200,000 unemployed, mostly agricultural workers. The confederation suggests that its workers be admitted to the United States as emergency war workers, the American Government retaining 10 percent of the wages earned by each worker and delivering it to him when he is sent back to Cuba. (N.Y. Times)

EL SALVADOR REGULATES COFFEE INDUSTRY by establishing the Salvador Coffee Company, a private corporation under Government influence, authorized to buy and sell coffee for its own account, cooperate with other institutions in bettering conditions in the industry as they relate to production and marketing and to deal in other agricultural products. The long-term effects of this control will be important to the national economy of El Salvador since 80 to 90 percent of the total national income is derived from coffee exports. (Export Trade and Shipper - November 9)

MEXICAN INDUSTRY IS EXPANDING according to Daniel Del Río who has recently returned from a tour of that country. According to Mr. Del Río, Mexico's "extra exports" to the United States, principally plywood, cheap timber, and hard woods, now total almost one million dollars monthly. "Mexico is beginning to invade the markets of Central America. They expect that when the Pan American Railway is opened those markets will belong to them." Mexicans are exporting "things they never dreamed of shipping before." Plants already established in Mexico are being expanded, such as the steel company in Monterrey which recently installed a new blast furnace and a brewery which set up a whole new factory for the manufacture of bottle caps. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO SETS UP NEW BOARD FOR PROMOTION OF PRODUCTION under the direction of General Abelardo L. Rodríguez. The new board of economic warfare differs from certain similar organizations in the United States in that the Mexican organization is interested not only in immediate problems but in long-term developments which will aid Mexico to emerge from the war a more self-sufficient economic unit. According to the Presidential decree creating the board, specific objectives include initiation of new agricultural activities with the object of satisfying domestic demand, "including foodstuffs, grains, oils, cotton, wool, fibres, forest products, rubber and rubber substitutes." Opening of new agricultural lands will also be fostered. (Christian Science Monitor)

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN PERU WERE SATISFACTORY during third quarter of 1942. Public employees of Peru have been given a salary bonus to meet increased living costs, and a new scale of wages for textile workers has been established by the Government. Legislation has been submitted to Congress prohibiting rental increases for two years and providing for official control of distribution and trade in food stuffs and raw materials to curtail speculation. (Export Trade and Shipper - November 9)

RECORD RICE CROP OF 1,500 TONS REPORTED IN VENEZUELA. The Banco Agrícola y Pecuário of the Tecupita region in the delta of the Orinoco River is now establishing a rice mill in Maripa and the Government is constructing a silo for storage. The Agriculture Department is distributing seed of the Rexora and the Fortuna varieties of rice which have unusually high yields. (Foreign Commerce Weekly - November 7)

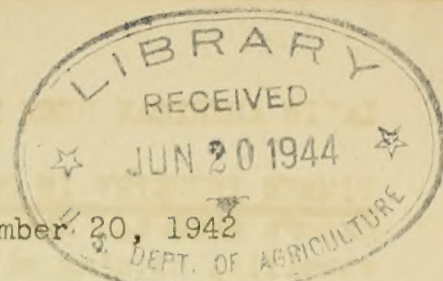
1.943
L34
Cop. 5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 463

November 20, 1942



IDLE U.S. MACHINERY PROPOSED FOR SALE TO LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS. Such a program would make available more food, textiles, leather, fibers and other products to the United Nations, save shipping space and help solve the domestic manpower and materials problems. Only machinery which can not be used to produce war or essential civilian products would be eligible for sale. A few of the benefits which would result are as follows: 1. Machinery for making extracts of coffee, as crystals and syrups, could eliminate the coffee shortage; 2. Tropical fruits could be dehydrated and sold for consumption throughout the country; 3. Fibers native to the Latin American countries could be manufactured into textiles. The program is long range and would have additional benefits for Western Hemisphere economy after the war ends. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BURRO BECOMES BACKBONE OF RURAL TRANSPORTATION IN LATIN AMERICA. Freight transportation by truck over the trans-Andean highway is disappearing, and mule and burro trains carry Andean wheat, potatoes and other products. Mules are being used to a great extent for traffic between Colombia and Venezuela, the trip from Caracas to San Cristóbal taking two weeks. In remote areas the burro is useful on roads which would daunt a jeep. The cowboys of the Venezuelan llanos use the burro to bring stray cattle and selected steers to the slaughter house. (N.Y. Times)

ECONOMIC ENVOYS APPOINTED TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES in order to facilitate business with Latin America. These representatives are called "counselors of embassy for economic affairs," and will coordinate the activities and efforts of the representatives of other Government agencies employed in work of a commercial or economic nature. (Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA SHIPS 500 TONS OF FROZEN BEEF TO PERU, according to the newspaper El Comercio which states that the Peruvian Government is signing a contract for the delivery of 6,000 tons more at the rate of about 500 tons a month. Because of the improved standards of living in Lima and environs, that city is now consuming 120,000 head of cattle a year, whereas only 2 years ago, the consumption stood at 95,000 head. Nicaragua was a former source of supply, but the price has gone up 40 percent. Both Ecuador and Chile have prohibited the export of meat. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND URUGUAY PROCLAIMED by President Roosevelt on November 10, 1942. (Export Trade and Shipper)

BRAZIL MOVED TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE RISES IN FOOD COSTS, a matter that has been threatening to become serious. Meat has been getting scarce in Rio, a condition due to increased exportations and to efforts of dealers to maintain prices. The Coordinator of Economic Mobilization, João Alberto Lins de Barros, has promised that these irregularities will cease. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

CHILEAN FOREIGN TRADE UNIT FORMED to stimulate and develop trade between Chile and the other American countries. The new company has the support of some of the most powerful banking, transportation and development groups in Chile, with the greater part of the capital and leadership in the hands of private interests. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

(Over)

TIMBER INDUSTRY IN COLOMBIA able to provide domestic needs and to supply a large export market. The Minister of National Economy reports that there are 62 large sawmills, planing mills, and similar plants. In addition there are 300 plants turning out plywood, veneer, staves, boxes, wicker furniture, wooden heels, desks, kitchen and dining room furniture, beds, door and window frames, and cabinet work. The domestic industry is being flooded with orders from neighboring republics "with extraordinary urgency and in fabulous quantities," says a Bogotá newspaper. The "abarco," a fine hard wood which is used but little in Colombia, can be substituted for Philippine mahogany for boat building. The "cativo" and "ceiba amarillo," two softwood trees are being used to make barrels for vegetable oils and butter tubs. These same containers can be used for shipping petroleum products. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

MEXICAN COTTON CONSUMPTION INCREASES 50 PERCENT over preceding season as result of wartime stimulus to cotton-cloth production. The Mexican cotton harvest this year has been estimated at between 380,000 and 450,000 bales. Increased cotton consumption also due to difficulty of obtaining wool and rayon from outside sources. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

MEXICO SETS UP FEDERAL ECONOMIC PLANNING COMMISSION to handle the settlement of all of Mexico's economic problems. Headed by Secretary of National Economy Francisco Javier Gaxiola, Jr., the Commission will have charge of the preparation work that will be submitted to the Supreme Council of National Defense. (Export Trade and Shipper)

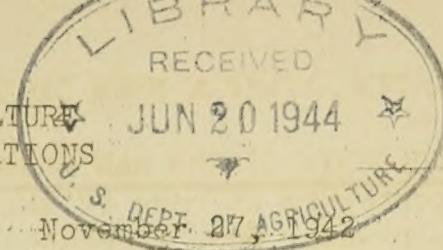
MEXICO EAGER TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. IN GUAYULE RUBBER PRODUCTION PROGRAM according to General Juan Felipe Ricco who states that land suitable for growing the shrub might be developed in Baja California, in the delta of the Colorado River. (Christian Science Monitor)

NICARAGUA FREEZES STOCKS OF FLOUR as a means of preventing speculation. Merchants are not permitted to sell flour without the permission of the Price Control Commission. (N.Y. Times)

VENEZUELA LAUNCHES NATION-WIDE VEGETABLE RAISING CAMPAIGN. According to Minister of Agriculture Rodolfo Rojas, the government will distribute free seed and fertilizer. Technical experts will travel in different sections of the country giving advice. The campaign is expected to alleviate serious food shortages. (Christian Science Monitor)

1943
L 34
cop. 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 464

November 27, 1942

500 INDUSTRIAL PLANTS ARE TO BE SHIPPED TO LATIN AMERICA as soon as arrangements are made to operate them. Plants available for transfer are being listed by the Department of Commerce. Eight plants, six textile establishments, a blast furnace unit and storage battery producing plant, have already been exported under the program, the four textile plants, including a jute mill, to Brazil, one to Venezuela and one to Mexico. The storage battery plant is operating in Chile and the blast furnace in Brazil. (N.Y. Times)

REDUCED FARM MACHINE EXPORTS TO LATIN AMERICA caused by WPB cut in the manufacture of farm equipment to 20 percent of the 1940-41 volume. Continuation of farm machinery exports is considered essential in view of wartime program for development of agricultural resources in the Western Hemisphere. (Export Trade and Shipper)

COFFEE QUOTAS ANNOUNCED FOR 14 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES amount to 19,330,115 bags. The Inter-American Coffee Board is prepared to increase the quotas at any time to facilitate the entry of coffee for consumption in the United States. The basic quotas for these countries last year amounted to 15,545,000 bags and the amount was later expanded to a quota of 22,930,998 bags. (Christian Science Monitor)

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD RESTRICTS USE OF ALPACA FOR ARMED FORCES. Most of the alpaca used in the United States comes from Peru and Chile. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE ESTABLISHED IN SANTOS, BRAZIL to expedite clearance of merchandise imported or exported by Paraguay. The Brazilian Ministry will issue regulations for the operation of the zone, delivery and transportation of merchandise, warehouse rates and other factors concerned with internal operations. (Export Trade and Shipper)

BRAZIL SPURS PRODUCTION to aid war, following President Vargas' recommendation for increased industrial endeavor. Economic Coordinator João Alberto Lins Barros creates the "industrial production sector," a subsidiary body attached to the Office of Economic Coordinator. The sector's main job is to study industrial possibilities and draw plans, closely collaborating with the Army and Navy and United States experts. Its prerogatives also include fixing priorities and distributing fuel, electric power, raw materials, transports, and specialized labor. (N.Y. Times)

BRAZIL CUTS WAR INSURANCE RATES from 5 percent to 3 percent for shipping in Brazilian waters. The occupation of North Africa by the United Nations forces was the reason given for the new rates. (N.Y. Times)

COLOMBIA OFFERS RAW RUBBER TO U.S. if the price is increased and if air freight lines are established. Dr. Eduardo López, Colombian banker, industrialist and journalist, declares that thousands of pounds of raw rubber could be started

COLOMBIA OFFERS RAW RUBBER TO U.S. (cont'd)

northward at once if the price were increased from 33 cents to 50 and 60 cents a pound. Such increased prices would bring 25,000 natives into the rubber-tree country, and use of small amphibian planes to fly the raw product 400 miles out of the jungles to large landing fields would reduce transportation time to the coast from eight weeks to an hour and a half. Asserting that Colombia's population of 9,500,000 can be organized for "miracles of production," Dr. López cautioned that it could not be done "with an American mass-production line." (N.Y. Times)

PRESIDENT CARLOS ARROYO DEL RIO OF ECUADOR WELCOMED TO WASHINGTON by President Roosevelt. President Arroyo del Río will remain in Washington until Nov. 27, when he will leave for Detroit, Buffalo, and New York to view war plants. (N.Y. Times)

NEW HIGHWAY TO TAP INTERIOR OF HONDURAS undertaken in agreement between the Honduran Government and the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. About a thousand men are now at work on the reconstruction job, mostly recruited from banana and transportation workers. (Export Trade and Shipper)

MEXICO AND RUSSIA RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS after rupture of nearly 13 years. Mexico instituted the break in January, 1930 during the regime of President Emilio Portes Gil, following a bitter dispute over alleged "improper" communistic activities by members of the Russian Legation Staff. The renewal restores Mexico's relations with every major power of the United Nations. (N.Y. Times)

UNITED STATES TO AID KEY LINES OF THE NATIONAL MEXICAN RAILWAYS in order to speed shipment of war materials through Mexico to the United States. The U.S. agrees to bear the cost of all necessary materials and equipment, as well as repair costs and the cost of additional maintenance; the Mexican Government agrees to take all necessary measures to achieve maximum efficiency in operation of the lines. In making public the texts of the notes regarding the joint rehabilitation task, the State Department announced that the Mexican Railways are being called upon to carry a traffic burden which several times exceeds peacetime peak loads. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

IMPETUS TO MEXICAN AGRICULTURE is expected to develop from a plan of cooperation between the Rockefeller Foundation and the Mexican Department of Agriculture. A commission of experts under the direction of Dr. E. C. Stakeman of the University of Minnesota will include a geneticist, a specialist in soils, a specialist in zootechnics and veterinary science and a vegetable pathologist. The commission will work as a dependency under the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture; expenses will be shared by the Foundation and the Mexican Government. The project developed from a visit that Henry A. Wallace made to Mexico in 1940. The Vice-President reported to the Foundation the usefulness of cooperating with the Mexican Government in agricultural investigations and demonstrations. (Christian Science Monitor)

UNITED STATES-URUGUAY WOOL SALE NEGOTIATED to assure "availability of wool for war purposes" and "stabilization of Uruguay's economy." The United States will purchase "unsold" portions of Uruguay's wool clips for the periods 1941-42 and 1942-43. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)